



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
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**BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION APPROVES NEW 25-YEAR
STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

*Plan Emphasizes Greater Investment in Highway Maintenance, Modernization and
Other Transportation Modes*

RALEIGH—The Board of Transportation today approved a new long-range plan that prioritizes transportation investment for the next 25 years. The Statewide Transportation Plan provides a blueprint for greater investment in maintenance, preservation and modernization of the state's existing highway system as well as other transportation options such as rail and public transportation. The development of the plan is built upon technical data and includes extensive input from citizens and transportation stakeholders across North Carolina.

"I commend the Board of Transportation for approving such an innovative blueprint for the department's long-range planning," said Transportation Secretary Lyndo Tippet. "By following this plan, we will uphold our commitment to safety through increased investments in highway maintenance and modernization. Additionally, a higher level of investment in other needs such as alternative modes of transportation and intelligent transportation systems will provide citizens more choices for the future. This means greater mobility and improved connections between different transportation modes that are vital to the state's economy."

The centerpiece of the plan is the Recommended Investment Scenario, which outlines priorities from the estimated \$55 billion, in today's dollars, expected to be available over the next 25 years for transportation investment. Based on this scenario, the department will be able to meet an additional 10 percent of its maintenance and preservation needs and nearly 25 percent more modernization infrastructure needs. Additionally, the scenario proposes increasing NCDOT's investment in the other transportation modes.

The plan also identifies \$84 billion in total transportation needs and states that NCDOT will only be able to meet two-thirds of the state's 25-year transportation needs at its current funding levels, regardless of how the department's resources are allocated.

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“We have a responsibility to the citizens of North Carolina to make sure that we are directing our resources to the areas of highest priority,” said Board of Transportation Member Nancy Dunn, who chaired the long-range planning committee charged with overseeing the development of the new plan. “The plan gives us a roadmap for achieving this goal. It also underscores the need for innovative funding solutions, such as *N.C. Moving Ahead!* and gaining greater flexibility with the Highway Trust Fund to make more projects eligible for available funding.”

Though the plan does not point to specific projects, it does recommend key action steps to implement the plan, including the adoption of the Strategic Highway Corridors concept focused on developing strategic highway corridors across the state to improve safety, mobility and trade.

Full implementation of the Recommended Investment Scenario will be gradual. NCDOT has been working to develop the Statewide Transportation Plan since September 2000, and the plan will be updated every four years to ensure it continues to meet the state’s changing needs.

For more information on the Statewide Transportation Plan, including the Recommended Investment Scenario, please visit <http://www.ncdot.org/planning/statewideplan/>.

Information on the implementation of the Strategic Highway Corridor concept can be found at <http://www.ncdot.org/planning/statewide/shc/>.

NCDOT